

A bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the rule, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend from Wyoming is in the Chamber. If he has some remarks, he can certainly proceed; otherwise, I am going to ask we go into a quorum call at this time. We are going to shortly recess until after the 10:30 a.m. briefing.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Nevada for his remarks this morning. Certainly we all have very strong feelings and sympathy for what is happening. My office happens to be one of the offices that is closed as well. I have a strong feeling about what is happening as well.

Mr. President, we should just go into a quorum call and go to our 10:30 a.m. meeting without further ado.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:10 a.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 12:12 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TORRICELLI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CLOTURE VOTE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote which was scheduled for 11 o'clock today be set for 10 o'clock next Tuesday morning. This request has been cleared by the minority leader and the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, also, I would like to inform Senators that this afternoon, at around 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock—we don't know the exact time; we are trying to work that out, and we will shortly—we will move on the Interior conference report. We do not know if we will need a vote on a motion to

proceed to it. That is a nondebatable motion. So if we do, we will do that and then move right to approving the conference report.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, having said that, and having told Senators what is in store, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:13 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 1:32 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. REID).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Thank you, Mr. President.

PROCEEDING UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as I did yesterday, I think it might be helpful if I report to our Senate colleagues and to the extended Senate family about circumstances now over the last 24 hours.

Let me say, I have been especially appreciative, again, of the services provided to the Senate, especially by our extraordinary Sergeant at Arms and our Secretary of the Senate, who have just done an outstanding job of responding to the many challenges that we have faced over the last few days, especially.

I thank Secretary Tommy Thompson for his great cooperation, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Capitol Police for their work, and, finally—and certainly it should have been at the top of the list, if I was listing anybody—our distinguished Republican leader. Senator LOTT has been there shoulder to shoulder with me on every one of these occasions and over the course of the last couple of days. Our partnership is strong, but our friendship is even stronger. And that could not be in greater evidence than it has been over the last couple of days.

We will have a vote this afternoon on the Interior appropriations conference report. That conference report will come over to the Senate sometime this afternoon. As my colleagues probably know, the conference report is currently being debated in the House. Obviously, I am quite sure it will be adopted. Once it is, and once it is sent over to us, there will be a rollcall vote on the Interior appropriations conference report this afternoon.

There will also be a vote on the conference report on the military construction appropriations bill tomorrow. We do not know the time yet. We will certainly notify our colleagues. In part, we do not know the time because I am not sure what the House schedule is; that also will be a piece of business that we will take up.

It is my hope that we may be able to take up nominations as well. I will be

consulting with the Republican leader and with my chairs in regard to the degree to which Executive Calendar matters could be considered and, hopefully, voted upon either today or tomorrow.

So we have a good deal of business that we will be conducting. Again, one of the reasons why is because of the outstanding job that all of our service personnel have provided in accommodating our schedule, as we have continued to work through the immediate challenge that we have faced with the anthrax experience.

Mr. President, I could not be more proud of my staff for the way they have conducted themselves, for the attitude they have reflected at every step of the way, the professionalism they demonstrated on Monday, and the attitude and the degree to which they have taken each one of these moments in stride.

We have had a good number of discussions and consultations and meetings with members of my staff. It is now at a point where I think we can say that 31 members of my staff, and a certain number of Capitol Police, were found to have tested positive as a result of the nasal swab that was administered to them a couple of days ago.

A positive result on a nasal swab simply means they were exposed to the anthrax bacteria. Not one incident of infection has been recorded or reported. There is a huge difference between exposure—as is revealed by the nasal swab, if it is positive—and the actual infection itself. Antibiotics were administered immediately, even though we did not know the results of the nasal swabs, whether they were going to be positive or negative. And because of the early access to the antibiotics, the overwhelming advice I am now being given by all health care personnel is that each of my staff members will be OK. I am gratified to hear that, I am gratified to repeat that, and I will continue to emphasize that fact as we go forward.

In part because of the limited exposure, in part because of the opportunity to be administered the antibiotic quickly, in part because of the professional response all the way through this process, we are very confident about our ability to provide for the needs of each of my staff, with every expectation—I would say 100-percent expectation—that they will be treated successfully. So we feel very good about the current circumstances involving treatment and involving the response to the antibiotics already shown by members of the staff.

As many of our colleagues know, the exposure was limited, at this point, to two locations: My office in the Hart Building, Room 509; and the mail room in the Dirksen Building. There is no evidence currently that anyone in the mail room has been exposed to the point where they would receive a positive nasal swab, although we will be getting those test results back in the coming days. About 1,400 people were

provided with the nasal swab yesterday. The results of those swabs will not be provided for at least 24 hours.

Let me also add that we have been working in close concert with the Centers for Disease Control. Russell 325 will be our information center for the balance of the afternoon.

There is a meeting ongoing in SC-5 for senior members of all Senate staff. Chiefs of staff and office managers are certainly welcome. I am quite sure most people have been made aware. We will provide ongoing information in a myriad of additional ways, both technologically as well as telephonically. We will provide that information as we deem it important to share.

Again, let me emphasize three things: First, I believe very confidently that we have, as a result of the outstanding work done by all of those professionals who have been on the scene, dealt with this incident in as successful a manner as is possible. I repeat that I am very grateful I can say today that the health care professionals have indicated that my staff will be not only OK but perfectly healthy as a result of the actions that have been taken. We will be closing the offices, the Senate offices: Russell, Dirksen, and Hart, for the next couple of days in order to accommodate the environmental research that will be required to ensure that whatever additional material there may be could be found, if there is some.

We have no indication there is any additional information that would lead us to believe it is not confined to the mail room as well as to my office, but we are going to do a sweep of the area. In order to accommodate that sweep successfully, those three buildings will be closed. It is strictly precautionary. I emphasize, there is no evidence to suggest we are doing anything other than what we should to ensure that we can open, with all the confidence that I expect we will have, on Monday morning.

We will use the time we have available to us just to ensure that we have checked the entire complex of office space so we can open on Monday without fear of any further exposure.

Finally, let me emphasize, we will be in constant contact with every office all the way through the course of the next several days. Of course, we will be in session today and tomorrow. That, too, will facilitate our ability to communicate with all Senators.

I thank all colleagues for their great cooperation. We had a good meeting this morning, as we did yesterday, on both sides of the aisle. There were excellent questions. I am proud of our Senators for the leadership they are providing and proud of our Senators for the attitude they take back to their offices and to their States. I am proud of our Senators for the way they have conducted themselves under these unusual circumstances.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, may I say to our distinguished majority leader that having been a part of that meeting for well over an hour this morning, which you and Senator LOTT and other leaders conducted, we all were given a full opportunity to express our views, but throughout, we recognized the enormous pressure that you, as our leader, have been under because of the hit on your personal office staff.

Throughout that meeting and indeed throughout these days, you have stood with enormous personal courage and have won, if it were possible, even greater admiration than we had, from those of us who serve in this institution.

This is my 23rd year to be privileged to be a Senator. I have served under several majority leaders, assistant majority leaders, Republican leaders and Democratic leaders, all kinds and types, but you will be remembered in the annals of the history of this institution for the courage, personal and professional, that you have exhibited.

I thank you also for working with Senator LOTT and others in striking the proper balance, the obligation we have to our staffs, those who are visiting the Capitol, the infrastructure that serves us, balancing the need to give them adequate protection and at the same time enabling the Senate to continue to function.

As I said this morning, our Nation is at war. We have men and women of the Armed Forces in harm's way at this very moment carrying out the orders of our proud and strong Commander in Chief, the President. It is important, as they read about this chapter in the Congress, that they believe we are showing commensurate courage in facing the unknown. That is important. Indeed, the world will be observing us.

I commend my distinguished leader and the Republican leader and others. In the days to come, we will face the situation, and we are fortunate to have an extra group of experts coming in to advise all of us.

I thank the majority leader very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I join my colleague from Virginia in saluting Senator DASCHLE for his leadership at this moment in the history of the Senate. He and Senator LOTT, on a bipartisan basis, called together the Members of the Senate for the second straight day to the Senate dining room to discuss the situation on Capitol Hill. I think the decision that has been made for the Senate is the right decision.

I watched some of the television press reports, and I don't think they quite understand what is happening. So there is clarification, to this point, we have found that some 31 people on Capitol Hill have been exposed to anthrax, though there is no evidence of infection. Many others have been tested on

a precautionary basis. I have invited my staff and other Members have as well; if they think this is something they would like to do, they are perfectly welcome to it, if they think they might have come in contact with anthrax that was mailed to Senator DASCHLE's office. Although this is a cause of some concern, it takes literally thousands of these spores to cause the kind of infection that would have to be treated.

The precautions that are being taken are the right precautions. To have the press characterize this, as some television stations have, as an evacuation of Capitol Hill is just plain wrong.

What is going to happen tomorrow in the Senate office buildings, the Hart Building, in which Senator DASCHLE's office is located, and the two other buildings, Russell and Dirksen, is that we will bring in environmental survey crews which will literally test those buildings to find out if there is any evidence of contamination. The equipment that is being used takes up some space and involves some processing. The decision was made—the right decision—to ask the staff tomorrow to vacate those three office buildings. In the meantime, in the Capitol Building, we will be in business in the Senate. We will be debating issues and voting on them, as we should.

Some of the reports in the press really haven't come to grips with the reality of what we face and how we are reacting. Some have asked, are you overreacting? The honest answer is: The leaders are trying to be as careful as possible for the thousands of people who work here, for the visitors, for the college students who come to volunteer. We are being as careful as possible. Secondly, it is our good fortune this is not a regular occurrence so we don't exactly have a protocol to follow. We are going to be developing one by this experience so we will know what should and should not be done and can give advice after this experience to others. That is valuable. It will help in our public health effort to deal with anthrax or any other threats of bioterrorism.

I remind those who are following this occurrence—and it has been said and should be repeated every time we speak—this anthrax, again, even if you were exposed to it, can be successfully treated with antibiotics so that people should have no fear of losing their lives because of this exposure. Basic treatment by antibiotics can make certain that you don't have any serious outcome because of an infection.

This morning the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, former Governor of Wisconsin, testified before the Committee on Governmental Affairs. His testimony was excellent. His agency, along with the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control, is trying to envision what needs to be done to protect America. Since September 11, we have a feeling of vulnerability.

Our leaders in Washington, the Senate and the House, and with the President and his administration, are trying to envision those needs to make America's peace of mind return.

I am happy they are ordering the necessary immunizations, the necessary antibiotics, so that if there is a public health need, we will be there.

They are also going to invest in State and local public health sources so we can respond quickly to any questions that are raised. This is a time of testing for America, but it is a time when we will rise to the occasion and pass this test. This country was hit hard on September 11. Because of that, many of us have seen in our churches and synagogues and temples more and more people looking for spiritual guidance. We have seen families come closer together, with a stronger feeling of patriotism. All of this reaches to the spirit of this country, our values and principles.

We will withstand this test and survive. When it is all over, America will have the peace of mind of knowing we have led a global effort to fight terrorism. Whether in the Middle East or homegrown here in the United States, it is all despicable and cowardly. Frankly, we should be the leaders and join our coalition in the successful battle against it. What we are going through on Capitol Hill will be remembered, I am sure, for a long time. I hope what is also remembered is the determination of men and women in the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, to stand up proudly and fight for this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, my colleague from Illinois and the majority leader from South Dakota, Senator DASCHLE, have just spoken about the challenges that have been presented to the Senate, our Capitol, and to our Nation, beginning with the heinous acts of mass murder committed by sick, derailed terrorists on the date of September 11 and continuing now to the actions of some demented people who would send letters with spores of anthrax in those letters.

It is important, as Senator DASCHLE indicated a few minutes ago, because we now have a 24-hour news cycle in which things move very rapidly and reporting takes place at a very rapid pace, for us to sort out what is and what is not happening as a result of these terrorist attacks, specifically about what is happening on Capitol Hill with anthrax having been put in a letter addressed to the majority leader.

There is not an evacuation of the U.S. Capitol Building; there is not an evacuation of Senate offices. What is happening is a thoughtful, deliberate approach to respond to this set of challenges. Senator DASCHLE and Senator DURBIN both said—and I think it is important to underscore—that those who have been identified as having been ex-

posed to anthrax by the swab testing that has been done, are not at this point infected by that exposure. They have simply been exposed. It is important to underscore that there are antibiotics available to deal with that exposure if it becomes an infection. That is important for people to understand. And the medical authorities have visited with a joint session of Republicans and Democrats this morning here in the Capitol and have gone over that information in some depth.

It is not the case that spores of anthrax have been found all over this building. That is not the case at all. The reports we have at this point in time are that spores of anthrax were discovered in a limited area, and the law enforcement authorities and leadership of the Senate have taken actions that would attempt to make certain they don't spread beyond that area, and that we take the precautions necessary for human health and also to make sure the environmental situation in buildings is assured.

I want to, as I describe this, say how proud I am of Senator DASCHLE, Senator LOTT, and others, who in most cases have worked nearly around the clock; especially, I am proud of Dr. Eisold and the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary of the Senate, and so many others, most of whom have had very little sleep because they have been trying to respond to this issue. The Centers for Disease Control team, folks from the NIH and Health and Human Services, are all here.

Also let me say how much I have appreciated for some long while the work of the law enforcement authorities on Capitol Hill. These men and women have been working 12 hours a day and, in most cases, 6 days a week every single day for the last month. They are the first responders; they are the ones who put themselves in harm's way. We all should spend some time thinking about what they do for us and the sacrifice they make for their country.

It is very important, as Senator DASCHLE indicated, for people not to panic. This is not a cause to panic. This is a letter that had some anthrax attached to it. All of the things we know about this anthrax, all that we know about the exposure, and all that we know about the ability to treat that exposure, should it become an illness from that bacteria, would lead us to believe it is not at all cause to panic.

Is this a point of some concern? Is it worrisome that all of this happened? Of course. We would be fools to deny that this is a troublesome incident. Of course it is. It is probably not unexpected that those terrorists who wish to cause chaos in our country and damage and inflict injury on innocent humans would try to do that in our Nation's Capital and in the symbol of our Government here in the Senate or the House. But the response is not to be frightened. The response is to be thoughtful and careful and take the necessary steps to make certain we

protect the folks who work here and make certain we not allow this to happen again.

This is quite a remarkable country in which we live. We have faced a lot of challenges in many significant ways. Our country is a country that has split the atom, spliced genes, learned how to clone animals, invented great silicon chips, plastics, and learned how to build airplanes and how to fly them, built rockets, and flew to the Moon. We invented the telephone. We invented the television. We invented computers. We cured polio and smallpox. We survived a civil war. We survived a great depression. We beat back the fascism of Hitler.

Through it all, this is the freest country on the face of the Earth, with the strongest economy, providing the most opportunity for the most citizens anywhere. That is not an accident. It is because through it all, through all of the challenges, all the tough times as well as the good times, the center of the American people—the broad center that thinks through things in a clear way and uses inherent common sense in deciding how to respond and when to respond—has largely governed our behavior as a country. That broad center, I am sure, in this country feels as I do as a result of the September 11 tragedies; it feels the rage and anger that there are sick, twisted people who would do that. They believe as I do, I am sure, when I see the kinds of terrorist activities such as I saw in Florida and New York and now on Capitol Hill, with the use of anthrax as a weapon of terror—I am sure they feel anger and rage.

It is also the case that there are men and women in our Armed Forces who are in harm's way today because we have called on them once again to take action against those who would undermine the basic freedoms in our country.

So what is important today, not just with respect to this incident on Capitol Hill and all the wonderful young men and women—and in some cases older men and women—is that they are here because they are proud to be here; they are proud of their public service. It is important for all of us to understand that this country stands together. This country stands tall in the face of challenges.

I said yesterday it is interesting that changes occurred in this Chamber. In this Chamber of the Senate, for so long we had so much pettiness. There was so much pettiness in our politics. That is now gone—and good riddance, as far as I am concerned. But that pettiness led us to believe on every single issue, at every intersection, there was an "our side" and a "their side." We have, it seems to me, in meeting these challenges, understood now that there is only one side and that is "our side." That is the side that we all stand on together. It is not mine and yours, or us and them; it is just our side together. That is the way we will respond to the

incident that has occurred on Capitol Hill. It is the way America will respond to the broader threat of terrorism that exists around the world. It is the way the American people have responded for two centuries—to build a beacon of hope and opportunity for the rest of the world. It shall remain that way as long as we have the kind of leadership and capabilities that exist in this country, to say to the rest of the world it is worth the fight to preserve our freedom; it is worth that fight.

So let me end as I began, by thanking my colleague, Senator DASCHLE, for his leadership. Our thoughts have been with his staff as they have worked through this challenging period, and our thoughts are also with the literally thousands of men and women who come to this Capitol to serve with us in the House and in the Senate who do that because they want to be involved in public service and are proud of it. We say to them, don't be unnerved by this; we are proud you are here and that you have stayed through this period. We thank you for your public service.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise, too, to applaud the leadership given to us in the last several days by Senator DASCHLE and Senator LOTT.

Thirty years ago, I did not serve in this body; I served as a naval flight officer on the other side of the world, in a war that was not popular in this country. Those of us who served took our cues from those who served in this body with respect to the strength and support for our efforts from the American people and from our elected officials. The signals we received were not always encouraging ones.

It is important today that those who are serving our country on the other side of the world in this war, flying in F-14s, helicopters, dropping food from C-17s, dropping munitions from B-52s and B-1s, special forces at work, the sailors and airmen and soldiers—it is important that we send to them, not just by our words but by our deeds today, a very clear message: There is a time for fear and there is a time for resolve. This is a time for resolve. Our resolve is being tested, and it is critically important that we meet that test. And we will.

We are endeavoring to strike a balance, whether it is in Senator DASCHLE's office, Senate office buildings, the Capitol, or the House office buildings, to make sure we are being vigilant and careful and that we are mindful of their health and welfare. And we are. At the same time, let's remember we have a lot of work to do—not next year or the year after that; we have a lot of work to do this year. We have appropriations bills to pass to meet the needs of our Nation. We have compromises to hammer out on terrorism legislation, airport security, and rail security. We have legislation

that is in conference on education, raising the achievement level of our students, and making sure there is a Patients' Bill of Rights that is fair to everybody in this country. We need to hammer out those compromises.

We need an energy policy. We haven't had one in my adult life and, frankly, we need one now more than ever. We have plenty to do. The idea that some might suggest it is time for us to take leave from this place and go back to our States for a while is just absolutely the wrong approach to take. We need to stay here and stay on the job.

There are some differences between the facts and the fiction being spread about what is happening on Capitol Hill. Others have spoken to it, and I want to mention it as well. Secretary Thompson told me this morning that we received lab test results of the substance opened up in the mail in Senator DASCHLE's office, and we got those results about 3 o'clock this morning. The bad news is that it is anthrax.

The idea that somehow this is weapons grade is not correct. That is just not true. This is a substance that is susceptible to penicillin. This is a substance that is susceptible to Ciprofloxacin, just as other anthrax materials are susceptible. It can be treated.

Let's take a worst case scenario. There have been reports that the ventilation system of the Hart Building is somehow contaminated with anthrax. That is just not so. Let's assume for a moment it is. Let's assume for a moment that everyone who works there, including Senators, has been exposed to anthrax, which is not true either. As it turns out, maybe 20 or 30 people have been exposed—not infected but exposed.

If we had all been exposed and if, indeed, the ventilation system was chock full of anthrax—and it is not—what do we do about it? We simply take the antibiotics that kill the bacteria. That is what we do.

Keep in mind, anthrax is something for which we can be vaccinated. If we come down with an illness, we can take antibiotics that will cure it. If I contract an illness related to anthrax, it does not mean to suggest Senator DORGAN or anybody else is going to become sick. It is not communicable. We not only need to keep this in mind in the Senate and on Capitol Hill, but the American people need to know. This is something we can contain, and this is something we can control. We have to stay calm, we have to stay cool, we have to be collected, and we are going to do that.

The rest of the country is watching us to see how we respond in this time of duress. Certainly our military men and women around the world are watching us to see how we respond in this time of duress, during this threat to our Nation's Capitol. I presume whoever is sending these materials our way is watching us as well. They must be amused by the response they see from some.

The response we need to send to the terrorists, those who would do us harm, as well as to our troops, soldiers, sailors, and airmen around the world, and the rest of the American people is that we will make sure that the people who work here are protected and are safe, but at the same time we are committed to doing and completing our Nation's business.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. CARPER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, it is a pleasure to join my colleague from Montana, the distinguished Ranking Member of our Interior appropriations subcommittee, in bringing before the Senate the conference report on H.R. 2217, the Fiscal Year 2002 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This is the first of the thirteen annual appropriations bills to have reached this stage of the process. Let me say parenthetically, however, that the Committee on Appropriations reported the bill on July 12—3 months and 5 days ago. So it has been a long time in ripening to this point. This conference report is, in my opinion, a well-crafted bill. It is never an easy task to work out the many disagreements between House and Senate versions of an appropriations bill, and this year was no exception. But each and every one of the 1,330 items before the conferees was worked out in a way that balanced the views of each chamber and the resources available to the conferees.

I will not go into great detail with respect to all the particulars of the conference agreement, but shall point out a few highlights. First, to those who have a special interest in natural resource conservation, this conference report lives up to our previous commitment by fully funding the conservation spending category established in Title VIII of last year's Interior Appropriations bill. Through this spending category, the managers were able to fund key conservation activities including \$428 million for Federal land acquisition; \$229 million for State programs such as wildlife and wetland conservation programs; and \$184 million for Federal infrastructure improvements in our national parks, forests, refuges, and on other public lands. In addition,